

Executive Summary

This is the second progress report of the [Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029](#) since the Plan was adopted in February 2024. It looks at progress on delivering climate action across five strategic commitments, i.e. leadership and governance, climate mitigation, climate adaptation, delivery across services, and community activation and engagement. This report provides performance statistics relating to 2025 which supplements performance statistics from 2024 provided in the [Year 1 Implementation Report](#).

The Plan contains 99 actions, comprising 13% adaptation actions, 34% mitigation actions, and 53% which are both adaptation and mitigation. 89% of actions have commenced since the Plan was adopted (compared to 82% of actions commenced in 2024).

A key focus for 2025 was ensuring strong climate action **Governance and Leadership** across the Council. This comprised meetings of the Council-wide Climate Action Steering Committee, and meetings with the Council Plenary, and Strategic Policy Committee 4 (Climate Action, Energy and Environmental Protection). The South-East Regional Energy Unit was established in 2024 by the five local authorities in the South East to collaborate on and secure funding from the SEAI Pathfinder Programme to retrofit council buildings. Service Level Agreements and other partnership agreements are in place with Government Departments, and national and local partner organisations to secure funding and resources. Climate action has been integrated into many Council plans, strategies and programme, and also into the budgetary processes. Staff climate action training and capacity building has been delivered. A robust framework of reporting obligations, at EU, national and local level, has been delivered, as well as a communications programme for the public and stakeholders.

Significant work has been undertaken on **Climate Mitigation** actions across the Council in 2025. The Council achieved an 4.8% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions since 2024, and a 39.8% reduction since the 2016-2018 baseline. In terms of energy efficiency targets, the Council achieved a 5.5% reduction in energy consumption since 2024, and a 45.6% improvement in energy efficiency compared to the 2009 baseline. The Plan outlines range of key projects which will be undertaken over the next 5 years to further reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the 2030 targets.

Progress has also been made on **Climate Adaptation** actions in the Plan, informed by a Climate Risk Assessment of Council services. A range of actions were undertaken in 2025 including Flood Relief Projects, incorporating nature-based solutions in Council projects, Fleet management strategy, publication of the Biodiversity Plan and Severe Weather Emergency Planning.

Delivery of Climate Action across all services has been achieved in 2025. Case studies of some of the actions delivered by Housing, Safer Routes to School and Active Travel, Council Fleet, Emergency Services and Arts Office are highlighted.

The Council played a key role in **Community Activation and Engagement** in relation to climate in 2025, in particular, under Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme. This programme was a government initiative and funding was provided by the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment. It was managed by Kilkenny County Council who allocated €511,000 in 2024 to 22 communities across Kilkenny. Phase 2 of the programme with a similar funding amount was advertised Autumn 2025 with approved projects expected to commence in Spring 2026.

Finally, the report demonstrates how the actions in the Plan align with and deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) at a local level. A total of 13 of the 17 UNSDGs are supported through actions the Plan.

